

FSA NEWS

*Sedgwick County FSA Office
11832 W Central, Suite #100
Wichita, KS 67205-2101*

Phone 316 721 6127



FAX 316 721 8513

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program Sign-Up

Applications are being taken for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The first cutoff application period for this fiscal year is January 20, 2006. Funding can be received through EQIP for conservation practices which are related to water quality, water quantity, soil erosion and grazing lands. The program provides incentive payments for applying best management practices and cost-share payments for applying structural practices. Brush removal for rangeland is also cost-shared through EQIP. This does not include land currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). A resource concern must be identified in order for funding to be approved. Only applications that have been submitted by January 20, 2006 will be considered in the first cutoff period. However, you can apply at any time and be considered in a later application period. Please contact NRCS for an application.

2006 DIRECT AND COUNTER CYCLICAL PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

Producers may now enroll their farms for the 2006 DCP program. Farm operators having level 2 access may enroll their farm thru the web at http://www.fsa.usda.gov/egov/edcp_default.htm and log in with your eAuthentication account information. Operators enrolling thru the web will still need to obtain land owner signatures, even to verify "0" share for cash rented farms, and be responsible for getting all needed signatures to the county office before the farm can be approved for payment. If you do not already have level 2 access you may obtain it by completing the online registration form located at: <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov> then you will have to visit a county office to confirm your identity and present your driver's license.

Producers may call the county office and arrange for a signup appointment. Appointments allow the county office to be better prepared for your visit, make changes or corrections if needed and better schedule our time to assist you with enrollment. Before a farm can be enrolled, all needed changes of ownership must be verified and any needed farm division or combination must be completed. The first 50% of the '06 program payments could be issued anytime after December 1 for enrolled farms. We are also certifying your wheat acreage when you sign up. At this time, you cannot certify online. If you sign up online, please put your shares in decimals. (example $1/3 = 33.33$, $2/3 = 66.67$)



LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS

The final dates to request loans or loan deficiency payments are March 31, 2006 for wheat, barley and oats, and May 31, 2006 for corn, milo, soybeans, sunflowers and cotton. Please mark these dates on your calendars. The final date to request loans or loan deficiency payments for 2005 wool, mohair and unshorn pelts is January 31, 2006. Remember that all producers must have a page one of the 633 form on file prior to selling their grain. You must also file a page 2 of the 633 form on the day you want to lock in the LDP rate for the commodity.

FIELD BORDERS FOR UPLAND GAME HABITAT

Kansas counties continue to offer a special conservation reserve practice targeted to enhance the habitat and increase the numbers of quail and other upland game birds. Sedgwick county producers have already enrolled nearly 100 acres under this practice. The field borders are intended to extend on all sides of the field and may be up to a maximum of 120 feet wide. At the minimum, the habitat area must extend from a point where water enters and exits the field. Approximately 50% cost share assistance is available for establishing the practice and the acreage would earn annual payments for 10 years based on the soil rental rate established for the soil type. Land owners will retain the right to determine who would have access to the bird habitat. Contact our office or the NRCS office for additional information.



We will be closed on:

January 2, 2006 for New Year's

January 16th, 2006 for Martin Luther King Day

February 20th, 2006 for President's Day

Non-Discrimination Statement

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